

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Park and Recreation Conference Room  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Monday, February 8, 2010  
3:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Bryan Frye, Andy Solter, Cindy Claycomb, Tom Roth, John Stevens

**Absent:** Matt Goolsby, Randy Brown

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Kathy Dittmer, Riverside Neighborhood Association, Judy Heggy, Wichita Independent Neighborhoods

President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

**On a motion by Claycomb, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board regular meeting minutes of January 11, 2010.**

**Item 2A: 55<sup>th</sup> and Hydraulic**

Kupper updated the Park Board on improvements to the area. The Parking lot is under construction and a playground was completed approximately 6 months ago. A spring dedication is planned.

Frye asked about the land acquisition.

Kupper stated a Memorandum of Understanding exists with Water Utilities for the Park Department to manage and maintain the area as a park.

Roth asked the size of the park.

Kupper stated the area was approximately 7 acres. A walking path is being considered as an additional improvement to the area.

Solter informed the Board he has met with neighborhood organizations for naming suggestions. Their initial recommendation of Big Slough Park was rejected by the Board. The neighborhood now suggests the park be named after a tree.

Kupper noted elm trees were currently on the property, but other species could be planted.

Solter suggested Sumac, Walnut, Cedar, Sandplum or Peach Tree, as an historic reference to the areas past Peach Orchards.

Roth suggested an historic plaque for the area instead of planting peach trees. The Board supported the idea.

**On a motion by Solter, second by Claycomb, the Board of Park Commissioners UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to name the area at 55<sup>th</sup> and Hydraulic, Peach Tree Park.**

**Item 2B: 2010 Park Board Goals**

Frye reviewed the 2010 Park Board Goals with the members. Frye noted that item 5 has been completed. Members were asked to review the goals and choose one which they could advance toward completion.

Frye, Item 1

1. Continue to advance, advocate for, and participate in the development of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.
  - A. Highlight successes initiated by the PROS Plan.
    1. Develop an Asset Management Database which will include a maintenance inventory.
    2. Continue to utilize Channel 7.
    3. Develop a Quarterly Status Report for release to media outlets; Newspaper, District Advisory Boards, Neighborhood Associations.
  - B. Build relationships, engage citizens and advocacy groups to participate in park projects and dedications.

Claycomb, Item 2

2. Advocate for the Park and Recreation Department's annual budget requests (Service Plan and Service Action Plan) and bi-annual CIP submission.
  - A. Learn about the budget process and gain a solid understanding of the annual submission.
  - B. Elevate the importance of the annual P&R budget and CIP submission among various groups.
  - C. Meet with individual City Council members about P/R budget and CIP submission.
  - D. Make presentations to District Advisory Board's about the importance of P/R budget and CIP submission.
  - E. Develop ways to involve the business community in supporting the budget and CIP submission.

Solter, Item 8

8. Continue to Develop Riverbank Revitalization and Advocacy
  - A. Educate citizens on river access projects.
  - B. Correlate river development into the PROS.

Roth, Item 3

3. Continue to work on developing relationships with other city boards, committees, initiatives and departments.

- A. Invite speakers from other departments/groups to present to the Board on topics related to parks, recreation, and open space.

Goolsby, Brown and Stevens were not present at this time, but from past discussions, the Board preliminarily assigned items and will confirm with absent members.

Goolsby, Item 6

- 6. Move toward more 'Green' policies and procedures associated with the Board of Park Commissioners. Apply 'Green' policies toward Riverbank maintenance and product usage.

Brown, Item 7

- 7. Develop a Park Marketing and Communication Strategic Plan
  - A. Actively search for Grant opportunities.
  - B. Advocate for a full time marketing/communication position in the Park and Recreation Dept.
  - C. Advocate for an intern position to assist the marketing/communication position.

Stevens, Item 4

- 4. Invite Legislative Representatives and non-profit organizations to participate in the promotion of parks.
  - A. Develop relationships to advocate for Parks.
  - B. Advocate for State Funding

#### **Item 2C: March Park Board Meeting Date**

Kupper informed the Board he would not be available for the scheduled March 15 Meeting.

**Frye motioned the March Park Board meeting be re-scheduled to March 22, 2010, second by Solter.**

Roth indicated March 8 would work better with his schedule.

**Frye amended his motion to re-schedule the March Park Board meeting to March 8, 2010, 3:00 p.m., second by Solter. IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion.**

#### **Item 3A: Capital Improvement Plan**

Kupper informed the Board that the CIP had been passed by City Council on February 2, 2010. Current and projected park budgets range from 2.2 million to 2.8 million. The park budget is reduced from approximately 4.8 million.

Botanica Expansion Project and Chapin Park Phase II will be presented to City Council on February 9, 2010 for approval.

Solter asked how much use Chapin Park was seeing since the opening in December.

Kupper stated the Radio Control Club area and Dog Park were experiencing heavy usage, even with winter weather conditions.

Solter asked if a grand opening was scheduled.

Kupper is expecting a spring ribbon cutting once the grass and wildflower seeds have germinated.

Frye asked when the dog park naming would go before City Council.

Kupper expected this item to go before City Council late this month or early March.

Kupper informed the Board that the Botanica Expansion design includes infrastructure and a roadway connecting to Amidon allowing easy access through Sim Park to Cowtown and other museums.

Frye noted the preliminary designs for the Children's Garden will be an exciting addition to Botanica and city tourism.

Claycomb inquired about the connection between Botanica and the Park Department.

Kupper stated the Director of Botanica is a Division Head under the Park Department. Three city employees work at Botanica. Botanica, Inc. provides ¾ of Botanica funding.

Claycomb asked why the newspaper stated more funds than necessary had been raised.

Kupper said 1.5 million had been donated with an equal matching requirement. 1.7 million additional funding has been raised. FEMA dollars are being sought to build a tornado shelter at Botanica, especially due to the amount of children expected to be visiting the new children's garden.

Frye asked if there was any public comment.

Kathy Dittmer, 823 Litchfield, 67203, asked if the roadway would be completed at the same time as the Children's Garden. This is an important improvement for the neighborhood.

Kupper stated the design has been completed and there is no reason why the road will not be completed at the same time.

#### **Item 4: Review of Pending Issues**

None.

#### **Item 5: Updates from the Director and President**

Kupper advised the Board that City Ordinance 9.03 has been completed. It will be re-presented to the Park Board in March for final approval before going to City Council. All District Advisory Boards had positive comments to the changes.

Claycomb asked for the final version of City Ordinance 9.03 to be provided to the Park Board.

Stevens arrived at the meeting.

Kupper stated City Ordinance 9.08 regarding trees and shrubs has been presented to all except District Advisory Board 3, which will be presented February 10, 2010. DAB 2 requested the jail penalty be

reduced to 30 days. Other DAB's have concerns over entering private property. Kupper pointed out that other cities have similar ordinances to address major horticulture disease which would result in catastrophic damage to urban canopy. The City Ordinance from Chicago concerning trees, disease and entering private property was provided to the Board. Three days is standard citizen notification for dangerous situations, such as dangling limbs or leaning trees. All suggestions and concerns from DAB's will be studied by staff and presented to the Board.

Claycomb said the main concern from citizens was about private property. She wondered if the blight ordinance would cover trees. Citizens would like specific language to cover catastrophic issues. Citizen appeal is not obviously addressed in the ordinance. DAB 6 thought minimal pruning should be allowed by citizens. The contact person for tree issues is not obvious enough in the ordinance or on the website.

Kupper said the city is working on a 311 call system to help provide better customer service to citizens. This should help direct citizens to the proper department. Neighborhood Assistants are the key person for citizens to contact.

Claycomb detailed Section 3C, and requested a time frame be included for remedies.

Kathy Dittmer, 823 Litchfield, 67203, agreed the city needed to protect the urban canopy. She thought citizens are unaware of rules regarding front or rear property easements. Fees, payment and non-payment becoming a special assessment needs to be repeated throughout the ordinance. Penalties should be detailed on a sliding basis. Citizen education is necessary.

Kupper thought Channel 7, presentations to civic clubs and articles in neighborhood publications would be a good place to implement educating the public about trees on city property or easement.

Judy Heggy, 532 S. Roosevelt, thought diversified notification and education would reach more people. She has been cutting suckers from her front tree since it was planted without knowing the park department would take care of this for her or that it violated this ordinance. She thought citizens should be able to do light pruning.

Kupper asked if a most frequently asked questions format would be good for neighborhood publications.

Judy Heggy, 532 S. Roosevelt, said this would reach a lot of people and would be a good handout for neighborhood publications.

Stevens would like definitions of horticulture words at the beginning of the ordinance. Clear, non-legal language should be used so the public can understand the ordinance. Stevens asked about sections not included in the edited draft.

Kupper stated only sections that were being edited for authority issues were presented to the Park Board and DAB's. In retrospect, the entire ordinance 9.08 should have been presented. Staff will send the entire ordinance to the Park Board and the entire ordinance will be reviewed for necessary changes.

Stevens said section 1 was fine, but questioned section 3 about filing a complaint with the City Clerk.

Kupper stated that if any problem existed, the proper procedure would be to file with the City Clerk.

Stevens asked if a new document with proposed edits could be made for the Park Board.

Kupper stated there was no deadline to the editing process. Staff will work with the Park Board until the Ordinance meets their approval.

Stevens said the entire ordinance needed updating to understandable wording. Stevens questioned who should bear the expense of removal or treatment. Low income citizens need special consideration. The ordinance needs detailed direction for dealing with the citizens. Section 6 details the city's ability to enter private property. Providing notice to the property owner needs to be detailed.

Kupper acknowledged the need for redundancy in the ordinance. He will check with the Legal Department for proper wording.

Stevens questioned whether the city or the property owner should bear the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting utilities for tree removal. Stevens said section 10 and 11 were fine, but there needs to be more consistency throughout the ordinance. Section 12 appears to be inconsistent with billing.

Roth stated that section 12 only refers to public areas.

Stevens said section 14, referring to penalties, should be \$500 fine or 30 days in jail.

Kupper said the jail time has been reduced to 30 days, but the fine should remain \$1000. Most DAB's were in agreement with this amount. Companies who cut down entire tree lines should face a significant fine and even \$1000 would not cover the cost of replacement.

Kupper advised the Park Board that the Park Department has gone through re-organization due to the implementation of out-sourced mowing and the resulting contract maintenance. Martz will oversee recreation facilities north of Kellogg, parks north of Kellogg and all tree issues. Foos will oversee recreation facilities south of Kellogg, parks south of Kellogg and all athletic facilities and events.

Frye noted he did not attend the last Play Commission meeting.

Claycomb advised she attended and the committee is working well.

Kupper reminded the Park Board members to find replacement representatives to appoint to the Play Commission.

Claycomb asked who should be notified of replacement representatives.

Kupper advised the Board to notify Barbara McGuire, staff, of their replacements.

Roth advised the Park Board there is continued interest from DAB 2 for a park at Greenwich and Central. DAB 2 had numerous concerns over a proposal from IT/IS for placement of a communication tower on land designated for a park in the area. They are still anticipating a park for the neighborhood.

Kupper advised there is 17 acres of land purchased for a park in that area.

**Item 6: Issues on the Horizon**

None.

**Item 7: Adjourn**

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m.

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Bryan Frye, President

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Lee Ann Sack, Clerk